

February 25, 1975

PRESIDENT: Senator Dworak.

SENATOR DWORAK: Mr. President, colleagues, I had my light on yesterday and wanted to address Senator Koch on his comment that the requirements or the criteria is now with the State Department of Education anyway. As I read the statute, it very specifically calls for three hours of driver's education, three hours of general safety and a course in first-aid. This is being stricken and in its place putting at the pleasure of the State Department of Education, and I think this is a pretty drastic departure from a very strict law which..and I think most people agree has caused no big problems at this point to an open end type situation. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Barnett.

SENATOR BARNETT: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, I am going to oppose it as I did yesterday and I was busy just a few minutes ago but they did tell me from the Department of Education that it has a grandfather clause in it and anybody that is teaching driving today will not be required, I repeat, will not be required to renew their upgrading and make it any tougher on them as far as teaching is concerned. Anybody that comes in under the program now will have a different set of standards to teach by but it will not affect any of the people in your districts that you are concerned with.

PRESIDENT: Senator DeCamp, are you ready to close debate by way of reply.

SENATOR DeCAMP: Yes, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT: Oh, excuse me. The chair recognizes Senator Koch.

SENATOR KOCH: Mr. President and members of the body, a question of Senator Barnett, if he would yield. Are you certain those individuals who are presently instructors in driver's ed will have the minimal qualifications forever or do they have to work toward the new standards that the State Department would establish.

SENATOR BARNETT: Well, as I understood it, the gentleman said there was a grandfather's clause and if they continue to teach, their standards stay the same. That doesn't make them or it doesn't bar them from trying to improve and taking additional courses but I don't believe they will be required to. That's right.

PRESIDENT: Senator Richard Lewis.

SENATOR R. LEWIS: Mr. President and members of the Legislature, if there was really a problem here, I could understand a need for change but I would like to have someone explain to me where there has been a problem in this area. It seems to me that the present program has been fairly satisfactory and I don't see why we should put this...put a program that's working fairly well and replace it with a program that's going to cause some hardships in certain areas. This is a forgone conclusion.

PRESIDENT: Senator Simpson.